



FLATHEAD

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Locally-led Conservation Since 1945

133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901 | www.flatheadcd.org | 406-752-4220

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chair Pete Woll called the September 23, 2019, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members - present: Pete Woll, Chair; Lori Curtis, Vice-Chair; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Lech Naumovich, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Board members - absent: Ronald Buentemeier, Supervisor; John Ellis, Supervisor. Absences are excused.

Also, in attendance were Hailey Graf and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Sean Johnson, NRCS.

MINUTES

Lori Curtis motioned “to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2109, 310-Stream permit meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email: Newsletters/Publications

1. Petroleum Conservation District newsletter *District Dirt*
petroleumcd@midrivers.com
2. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
The Resource, Conservation Clips, eResource
<https://www.nacdnet.org/>
3. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks newsletter *Aquatic Invasive Species*
www.cleandraindrymt.com
 - FWP and partner agencies operated 45 inspection and decontamination stations across the state.
 - More than 104,000 watercraft have been inspected so far this year.
 - Inspection stations have intercepted 14 boats with mussels coming into the state.
4. Montana Watershed Coordination Council newsletter *Watershed News*
<http://mtwatersheds.org/app/>
5. Montana Department of Agriculture reminder about the Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program and the federal and state regulations requiring Certified Forage

on public lands. Certified Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage is required on ALL public lands in Montana. Contact Rory Ruffner, Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program Coordinator, MT Dept. of Agriculture, 302 N Roberts St., Helena, MT 59601, 406-444-7819, Rory.ruffner@mt.gov

FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

1. Bitterroot Conservation District \$60.00
2. CenturyLink \$311.37
3. Flathead Beacon \$528.00
4. Mountain States Leasing \$1,599.73
5. Snowghost Design Inc. \$750.00
6. Susan D. Hulslander, CAP \$265.0
7. VISA \$2,173.87

Dean Sirucek motioned "to approve the bills as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Youth Camp Sponsorship: Sister Scout Troop 1941, along with their Scout Masters and parents, thanked the Board for providing camp sponsorship to the Melita Island Scout Camp this past summer. When asked about the integration of girls into Scouts, the Scout Master explained that they are mixed for merit badges, but the troops are separate, they are not co-ed.

Scouts spoke about their learning experiences at the camp and about earning Forestry Merit badges. They walked around the island, learned about diseases that attack trees, and found Doug Fir that had mistletoe, root rot and moth larvae which killed off trees. They added that a Forester has assessed the situation. They learned about the environments that plants need to live in, that different environments host different plants, and about the sawmill on the island. Scouts also earned Swimming badges. They noted that camp was fun and a lot of hard work.

The Scout Master stated that Scout Kaylee King also had the opportunity to attend the World Scouting Jamboree in West Virginia this year where she met female scouts from Malaysia, India and South America. 160 countries were represented, and 40 % of those attending were girls.

NEW BUSINESS

MONTANA Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) Convention: Hailey Graf provided copies of the draft 2019 MACD convention agenda and flyer for the EO event. The convention will be held November 18-20, 2019, at the Red Lion in Kalispell. Hailey asked that supervisors contact her by the October business meeting so she can register them. She noted that spouses or guests will be registered at the door.

MACD Resolutions & Dues Proposal: Information regarding the MACD Resolution process and all proposed Resolutions can be found on the MACD website <https://macdnet.org>

Hailey Graf stated that copies of all Resolutions had been provided to the Board for review at the last meeting. Pete Woll noted that some of the Resolutions may have already been voted down at Area meetings. Board and staff discussed the Resolution process and Resolution 19-02 as it is specific to Area V.

Dean Sirucek motioned “that the Flathead Conservation District support Resolution 19-02 at the Area V meeting.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried with one no vote.

Pete Woll stated that the MACD District Operation Committee Dues Proposal is a reasonable change because it is more realistic, fair and equal to all Montana Conservation Districts. Board members agreed. Pete noted that this will be discussed and voted on at the MACD convention business meeting.

Hiring Update: Hailey Graf stated that the Conservation Program Manager position will be open for applications starting September 25th and will close September 30th at 4:00 P.M. Announcements will be placed in the Flathead Beacon, on the Flathead CD website and the Montana Job Board. Hailey noted that as part of the rejection letter for the Resource Conservationist position, applicants were informed that another position would be opening. Supervisors thanked Hailey for all her work on this process.

Cow Creek Grant #218013: Ginger Kauffman explained that several invoices have been received for the Cow Creek restoration project and need to be submitted to DEQ for payment. Hailey Graf stated that work has been implemented, more bills are expected in November, and a report is due the end of November.

Lori Curtis motioned “to approve the billing statement in the amount of \$12,730.26 for the Cow Creek project and submit to DEQ for payment.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

End of Month Budget Report (August): The August End of Month Budget report was reviewed with the Board.

Dean Sirucek motioned “to approve the August End of Month Budget report as presented.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dean Sirucek asked the Board if he should periodically review the grants as part of his oversight as Treasurer. Supervisors agreed that it would be a good idea.

Lech Naumovich asked about district accounts as they apply to FDIC and noted the importance of the Board doing due diligence with district finances. Staff will contact the CPA and bank for further information.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Hailey Graf reported:

District Office and Outreach

1. Advertisements: Flathead Beacon – Noxious Weed Spraying Workshop and 310 law ad with QR code and new logo.
2. Hailey created a flyer and outreach materials for the October 2nd Noxious Weed Spraying Workshop.
3. Hailey and Pete Woll participated in the MACD Convention planning meeting on September 10th and a follow up meeting with the Red Lion to finalize the menu and room reservations.
4. Hailey attended the River to Lake Initiative quarterly meeting and provided the group with an update on the District's restoration projects and the rain garden building initiative.
5. Hailey attended the Flathead CORE (Community of Resource Educators) meeting. The group continued planning efforts for the fall Teacher Trunk Workshop and discussed other upcoming education programs.
6. Hailey attended the Haskill Basin Watershed Council meeting. The group discussed the City of Whitefish's efforts to reduce use of Haskill Creek water. The group also received an update on the Forest Service and Stoltze fuels reduction project in Haskill drainage.

On-the-Ground Projects

Cow Creek – Hailey compiled match tracking information from project partners and wrote the status report for submission to DEQ. She also met with the fencing contractor to finalize details for fence installation and provided updates to the landowners. Craig Workman with the City of Whitefish managed the completion of the hardened crossing structures Hailey and Franz Ingelfinger ordered the materials and scheduled the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) crew for planting during the week of October 7th. Volunteers are welcome to help with planting.

Landowner Programs

Cost-Share Program – Hailey met with three additional landowners about the cost-share program and visited each of their properties to discuss options. She reviewed the application for one project and consulted with the Flathead County Weed Department on the proposed work. That project focuses on weed control and reforestation. The other two proposed projects focus on rain garden construction to help control stormwater runoff and prevent water pollution. Applications are due September 30th for this fiscal year.

Seedling Program – The DNRC Nursery released their inventory list and District staff began taking orders for seedlings on 09/18/2019. So far, three landowners have placed orders and Hailey has provided information to numerous others.

Education and Outreach

Programs – Hailey continued working with the CORE to plan the annual Teacher Trunk workshop. This workshop is designed to provide area teachers with information about resources available to them from local agencies and outdoor education groups. The workshop will be held on October 18th at the Lone Pine visitor center.

Demonstration Garden – So far, three workshops have been held at the Demonstration Garden site for a total of 34 attendees. These workshops have focused on building rain gardens and pollinator gardens. Feedback from the workshops has been very positive and attendees have asked to be notified of future workshop schedules, so Hailey is looking into newsletter and list-serve options for next year. One more workshop, focused on noxious weed spraying, is scheduled for October 2nd, however the location may need to be changed as the waitlist is nearly as long as the registration list with close to 40 landowners interested.

UPDATE: Hailey noted that due to large interest, the location for the Fall Weed Spraying Workshop has been changed to the Foy's Lake Community Hall.

Website/social media - Blog and social media post topics this month included: workshop announcements, tips on fall planting, beginning of the seedling program, and avoiding bear conflicts through fruit gleaning. Over the last 30 days, the website had 763 users and 2,082 pageviews. The Facebook page reached 3,488 users and had 794 post engagements.

Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS): Sean Johnson reported

➤ **Programs**

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
 - All FY19 contracts now approved
 - Sign-up for National Initiatives (High tunnel, Pollinator, Organic) ended up August 30th
 - Strong interest in Flathead for these programs
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - Wrapped up contracting for FY19
 - Interest already starting for FY20 sign-up

➤ **Review Items**

- Attended a Supervisor training in Great Falls Sept. 4-5

➤ **Upcoming Items**

- Long-Range Plan (LRP) and (Targeted Implementation Plans) TIP development process
 - LRP needs to be developed and approved before any TIPs can be submitted by the 12/31/2019 deadline for FY20 considerations
 - Current areas for TIP considerations include North Fork, Ashley Lake, Mountain Meadows (Stone Mountain Estates), Irrigation Improvements (probably at least a year out),
 - Many Lakes, Foothills Dr, Haskill Basin, Ashley Creek, Somers to Lakeside area among other areas that have been brought up as other areas of attention
- New Soil Conservationist, Karli Becher, starts in Kalispell on Monday Sept. 30th
- Fire Safe Flathead Meeting Sept 27th and Oct 24th
- Inter-Agency Meeting Oct. 2nd

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- Time to start thinking about the next Local Working Group (LWG) meeting. Held in May last year which is a tough time for landowner/producers to make it with field seasons starting. Would like to look at more of a later wintertime frame this year to hopefully fit better into people schedules.

Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD): Pete Woll reported that Area meetings are currently being held around the state. The MACD Board will meet again in October. MACD has not yet hired any additional staff. Pete noted that MACD and Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) now have only 3 employees between the two entities, and only one person is in the office at the current time.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): Dean Sirucek reported the meeting agenda included four zone changes. An additional proposed zone change, regarding a potential youth camp near Cramer Creek, did not go forward as the zone does not exist in Flathead County.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): No report. Copies of the WCPB September 19th meeting agenda were provided to the Board.

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3): The next meeting will be held on October 7th in Missoula. Lori Curtis provided copies of the agenda. Lori noted that she will be attending the Western Regional Panel meeting that same week on behalf of UC3 and the Flathead Conservation District.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): Hailey Graf reported the meeting included an update from the Forest Service and F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber regarding the Fuels Mitigation project in the Haskill Creek area. Haskill drainage is where Whitefish gets water from and if there is a major fire the treatment plant would have to shut down. The City of Whitefish is looking at other groundwater sources as a tertiary source, as Whitefish Lake is their secondary source. Measures are also being taken by the City to reduce their water use. The next meeting has not been scheduled yet.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): The next meeting is October 16th.

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council (CFKRBC): No report.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

District Logo: Hailey Graf spoke to the Board about purchasing district apparel/caps with the new logo. Lech Naumovich noted there are companies that can provide pro-deal pricing. Hailey will provide options and pricing for the board to review at the October 310-meeting.

Cost-Share Program: Hailey Graf reported that the application deadline is September 30th and more funding is being requested than was budgeted. This is unexpected, as some applications have already been approved, and several projects were carried over from last fiscal year, which are now part of this fiscal year budget. She explained that the program was changed to a 15-month cycle to accommodate fall, spring, fall weed spraying projects. Hailey noted that she will update the ranking criteria and bring all new applications to the board to rank and decide upon.

Hailey stated moving forward, after the application deadline is closed, all applications will come before the board to be ranked and decided upon, and will not be decided on as they come in. Lech Naumovich noted that with more people applying, it could give the Board a chance to implement strategies and possibly expand the program. Discussion held regarding repeat applicants and funding requests for landscaping not conservation. Lori Curtis noted that the application process might need to be more specific to make applicants prove a conservation effort.

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: Lori Curtis motioned “to adjourn.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Hailey Graf
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

10/15/2019	Pete C. Woll	Chair
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)